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SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1914.

WHY NOT A DIRECT SUBSIDY?

We find it impossible to decide whether a correspondent whose communication we publish this morning is serious or satirical. "What is simpler?" he asks, "than to repeat the tolls bill and then pass a bill granting a subsidy to American ships?" Otto L. Evans, the correspondent, does not appear to favor subsidies, but as the advocates of free tolls do, he naturally inquires why they do not avoid the fallacy of treaty violation, and vote for a direct subsidy.

The question is a fair one, and easily answered. If, indeed, our correspondent does not know the answer himself, to pay direct subsidies to the coastwise shipping monopoly seems a simpler, fairer and braver way than to give them an indirect subsidy by an act which all the world holds to be a violation of our solemn promise. It is a simpler, fairer and braver way. It is an "open and uncompromising" way. But there is one insuperable difficulty. It cannot be done, because the American people are opposed to a direct subsidy. It has been tried time and time again, only to fail. Few Congressmen have had the courage to advocate such a subsidy to such a highly protected industry as our coastwise shipping monopoly, and fewer still have the courage now. The "open and uncompromising" subsidies in Congress knew it; the ship-owning subsidy seekers knew it. Wearing of attempting to gain a direct subsidy, the ship owners had recourse to subterfuge. Knowing that in bill granting money directly from the United States Treasury would be impossible of passage, they attempted to secure an indirect subsidy. Denied access to the Treasury by the broad road, they attempted to reach it by unaided byways. Failing to force an entrance by the front door, they tried the back windows. They tried, and, thanks to Woodrow Wilson and the majority of the Representatives in the House of Representatives, they have met with a serious reverse. They are still trying, and, thanks to Woodrow Wilson and the majority of the United States Senators, they will be decisively beaten before the present Congress adjourns.

The uncompromising subsidies, shrinking a false patriotism and calling upon the American flag and "the God of our Fathers" to their side the Anglophobists, the Jingoists and a few others who sincerely believe we are surrendering what is our own, and went down in defeat. Beaten this time, they are irretrievably beaten. The uncompromising subsidies who dare come out into the open are too few to put through an honest, open measure with its captions proclaiming what the exemption clause of the Panama Canal act really is—a subsidy to a highly protected monopoly.

WILL LEAD TOO LATE.

A German editor recently criticized the crown prince severely for his sympathy with militarism and the army's disregard for the rights of civilians, telling him that he is hastening the march of republicanism. To lend force and sting to his remarks, the editor captioned his article "William the Last," and told the bumptious son of the Kaiser that his trend of thought and open support of the army made his ascension to the throne highly undesirable. Whereupon, the editor was clapped in jail for six months, thus adding to the very spirit of republicanism which the Kaiser wished to suppress. Some day the monarchies of Europe will learn many things of which they are now ignorant, but then there will be no monarchies. The people learn and progress faster than kings.

Cards of guns have been shipped to Hitler in boxes of tea. Tea is the best mode of Great Britain. It ruins the nerves of her peoples, cost her the American colonies, and now it is causing trouble in Ulster.

Reading of these "lone" bandits who are holding up Southern trains, one wonders what would happen if they came in droves. As in Mexico, for instance.

Champ Clark is telling us how many men there are in the country who would make as good a President as W. W. Some of us have an idea that there is one man out in Missouri who would make as good a Congressman as Clark. That's the man Champ wants to worry about.

"That Massachusetts aviator who cuts circles in the air without using his hands must have steering wheels in his head," says the Houston Chronicle. He has wheels in his head.

Just because the Panama Canal split a continent it needn't think it can romp monkeying around Washington to split the Democratic party.

Jimham Lewis made the pages keep quiet so the Senators could hear his speech. Long suffering Senators will now have to find some other means of escape.

THE BANK KICKERS.

The wall of disappointment which follows the announcement of the reserve banks was not unexpected. No three men in the Union could have chosen twelve of thirty-seven cities and not have disappointed twenty-five. No city that lost one of the banks could fail to bemoan the fact; some of them have not enough sporting blood to take their defeat with a good face.

The Washington Herald, it gives us pleasure to observe, is philosophical and not inclined to criticize; the Washington Post notes that the capital city bankers observed "the hand of William" in the choice of Richmond; but the Baltimore Sun, that should at least be reasonable, completely loses its head and raves in a manner most unbecoming so late a contemporary. It holds Baltimore and the State of Virginia in deep affection! It says, "but to set that lovely State capital up as a rival to Baltimore in finance, commerce, industry and general importance would be absurd on its face." It even threatens that Baltimore will bolt the Wilson administration because of the "Recommending" but there is no doubt that he will be the leader and the commander in the next great battle on Virginia soil.

Governor Vane Returns Home.

Governor Z. B. Vance of North Carolina has finished his course of lectures and is now on his way to the Carolinas troops in Northern Virginia and returning to Raleigh. The speeches of the Governor have been very inspiring and encouraging, not only to the North Carolina troops but to all others who heard him, and many thousands of others heard him.

Abuse of Morgan.

Mr. Prentiss of the Louisville Journal takes up no less than three columns of the editorial space of his paper to vent his spleen against General Morgan, the "Loyalist." The article is made to appear as a reply to a likely correspondent of the paper who dared to say a word of cheer to General Morgan. It is understood that the head man of the Louisville Journal has a spite against General Morgan because Morgan did not fully appreciate the military capacity of the editor of the Journal in the early days of the war.

Aged Lady Dies.

Mrs. Nancy Gray died in Randolph County two days ago at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Mrs. Gray leaves a number of children and 163 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Confederate Army, and of this fact the grand old lady boasted to her dying day.

Robberies Continue.

The epidemic of robberies and burglaries continues in Richmond. Not long after the police yesterday reported to the police yesterday the robbers and the burglars seem to be in search of something to eat, as ration are getting scarcer and scarcer every day.

NO WAY OUT IN MEXICO YET.

It is related of Napoleon Bonaparte that when told of a great victory achieved by one of his marshals, instead of giving voice to the expected praise, he asked: "And what did he do then?"

It is a far cry from the great conquer to the Mexican bandit, but General Villa, if the reports be true, has the Napoleonic sense of the value of following up a victory with action. Wasting no time in celebration, even before informing his chief of the news of the victory at Torreon, he marched his troops south, preparatory to flinging them against Saltillo and Monterrey. Many battles once won have proven disastrous to the winner who paused to rest or to enjoy his momentary success. Villa seems determined not to give the enemy time to reorganize and return to the attack, but to keep hammering away while they are on the run.

The courage exhibited by the opposing forces at Torreon and the reports of Villa's decisive action and splendid tactics puts new phase on the situation in Mexico. Skirmishes between bandits have given way to revolution and battles between generals. Villa's victory means war to the end, and, in so far as it indicates the early triumph of one side or the other, is important. The continued success of the rebel arms augurs for the solution of the problem of Huerta, but with final and complete success of the rebellion will come the problem of Villa. No more than it can recognize Huerta can the United States recognize him, and if he should decide to shoulder Carranza aside and seize control for himself conditions would be very much as they are now. We would have Provisional President Villa to contend with instead of Provisional President Huerta. The way out in Mexico is still dark.

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Some of these applicants at the counter were handed lemon pie.

Baltimore's mad and Richmond's glad, and we know what the reason; she doesn't get that reserve bank yet, and now she's yelling treason.

A political boss is a man who does what the good citizen is too good to do for himself.

Now everybody in North Carolina is trying to look surprised that there should be such a thing as rambling at the university.

The Massachusetts Legislature refused to pass a law prohibiting the tango. Probably realizes that there would be none to do the prohibiting.

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"It is useless," says the New York American, "to aim high with short range ammunition." Yet the American still continues to aim at Woodrow Wilson.

Patriotism proved a poor refuge for the ship subsidy kind, Dr. Johnson,

VOTING "PRESENTS."

When the final vote on the repeal bill came in the House of Representatives last Tuesday, and when party lines were rent by compelling personal conviction, there was one lone man who voted "present" when his name was called—one man among the four hundred and more who could not make up his mind.

We have forgotten the name of this Representative, and we have no idea why he found himself unwilling to vote with the President or with Speaker Clark and his followers. He may have had a good reason for doing so, though to save us we cannot fancy what it might be. Yet this lone Representative is of a type familiar in every walk of life—those men who hesitate between two opinions. In religion we find them, of one persuasion to-day, to-morrow shaken in their faith, on the third day devotees of some new doctrine; in business one meets with them, the vacillating, the timid and the hesitant, willing to be all things to all men yet never able to reach a clear-cut decision and to abide the consequence; in politics we find them among office-holders not less than among voters.

Our readers may remember that English worthy, in the days of pliant vote, whose state of mind George Eliot pictures—in "Daniel Deronda," unless we are mistaken. He was the friend of all three of the candidates and had but two votes to cast. One he gave to each of two rivals, and went home rueful that he had not a third to bestow on the man he seemed to slight. In office we find such trimmers, either doubtful in their own mind or else fearful that decision may mean disaster. One such we recall in a legislative body, who made it a point never to vote when his name was called, but to wander about the chamber and then, while the clerk was verifying the roll, to place himself with the majority.

It is not difficult to understand the psychology of this cowardice. There is always shelter under the wing of a majority—always room for the man who is willing to find his justification in the decision of others. To follow is the easiest thing in the world, especially when in the mob who has taken after the crowd may sometimes outrun those who have traveled far, and may even appear at the head of the procession. It's comfortable, it's pleasant, it's sociable and it's void of offense. "Present" hurts no man; voting "aye" with the majority does not endanger one with the impotent minority.

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Charity.

If this poor sinner you would save, Don't call me, I am a hardened knave, A puzzling sort, a drunken bum, A scoundrel, a swindler, a scoundrel, For while, no doubt, these things are

true, somehow they make me peevish with So that I don't appreciate Your well-intended billingsgate, Your well-intended billingsgate, My doings from the pith of sin You can't abuse and my soul is sold My contrite heart into your fold, Though I admit to you by rights, Should I truly link the hand that

smites my erring soul, alack!

Is said to smiting back, Is said to smiting back, I'm just as bad as you, I am a scoundrel,

But cannot we, like man and brother, Sit down and talk one with another? Can you tell me now, you became

So pure in heart, so free from blame, So able to resist the devil,

So high above all human evil?

Explains this poor child of sin, How did you blossom, bud and grow?

To be so great? Ed like to know,

Don't tell me goodness come between Your soul and mine. Don't cry, "Your clean."

And on the other side pass by,

With salient eyes, looking up the sky, Yes, I am a scoundrel, a scoundrel,

But that you possess the one true light,

That from your plane so far above,

Carries the others look with love,

Shows more mirth than that hate,

If folks have the temerity,

Some time with you to disagree,

But they are weak and you are strong,

When such poor creatures cross your path,

With such words turn away their wrath,

Thank God, you're not like them, to me,

But don't deny me charity,

Will treat us like a brother-man.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

Our Own Sugar.

The reports that come in from all over Virginia and North Carolina and from the South as a whole are to the effect that more Chinese sugar cane will be planted this year than ever before. A grain sugar, or equivalent, sorghum, is made from this cane, and thus we are learning how to grow our own sugar, which we need in the Confederacy.

Grant is in the Saddle.

From Orange Courthouse the reports are that General Grant has reached the plateau of the Allegheny mountains, and is nominally in command of the Army of the Potomac. It is no longer a secret that Grant is the supreme power. So far as I am concerned, I am contenting myself with reviews of the papers and with "Recommending," but there is no doubt that he will be the leader and the commander in the next great battle on Virginia soil.

Governor Vane Returns Home.

Governor Z. B. Vance of North Carolina has finished his course of lectures and is now on his way to the Carolinas troops in Northern Virginia and returning to Raleigh. The speeches of the Governor have been very inspiring and encouraging, not only to the North Carolina troops but to all others who heard him, and many thousands of others heard him.

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